

not continuous ; I am unable, therefore, to accept *X. fornicator* as a good species.

The present opportunity may be taken of deprecating the multiplication by splitting up of species except on the most valid grounds. A description of a species is not a description of a specimen only, and the practice of taking small and insignificant differences in a series for the erecting of new species only retards, instead of advancing, our knowledge. In the Scolytidæ this custom has, perhaps, been carried furthest in the genera *Hypothenemus* and *Stephanoderes*, but in all the genera the diagnostic value of colour, number and size of prothoracic tubercles, and in some genera the number of funicular joints, as well as the partial or complete division of the eye etc., depend on the examination of the longest series obtainable ; and the giving of specific value to single and often immature specimens which do not exhibit some striking peculiarities, is equally to be deplored.

The foregoing remarks have no reference to those cases where the forest expert is able to prove dissimilarity in life-history etc., as in such cases apparently trivial differences may become of the first importance.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE.

Strasburger's Text-book of Botany, re-written by Dr. Hans Fitting, Dr. Ludwig Jost, Dr. Heinrich Schenck, and Dr. George Karsten.
Fifth English Edition, revised from the Fourteenth German Edition by W. H. LANG. Macmillan and Co: London, 1921.
31s. 6d.

SINCE the last English edition of this famous text-book Professor Strasburger has died. The original authors of the text-book, as it appeared in 1894, were Professor Strasburger, Professor Noll, Professor Schenck, and Schimper. The new English edition contains important new sections on Morphology, Physiology, and Spermatophyta, contributed by Fitting, Jost, and Karsten, respectively ; and these Professors, together with Professor Schenck, who contributes the chapters on Thallophyta, Bryophyta, and Pteridophyta, are responsible for this edition, which in the main follows the lines of the original text-book. The addition of the important new material by the authorities already mentioned makes the book of quite exceptional value as a text-book, and it will be a great advantage to students to have before them the brief account of recent literature and the exhaustive bibliography which is given by each of the four subeditors.